M-1, R
Seed Traps
+Cone Dev.

DAILY NEWS - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

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SEED CROPS

The seed crop of ponderosa pine in central Idaho was very light this year, following an unusually heavy crop in 1936. Comparative data for the two years given in the following table show that the number of pine seed caught in seed traps on the Boise Basin Experimental Forest was only 2.6 percent of the number found in 1936:

Character of Stand	Average number of seed per milacre (or number of thousands per acre)			
	Ponderosa pine		Douglas fir	
	1936	1937	1936	1937
Virgin stand	125.7	7.3	26.8	10.5
Selectively cut stands	244.1	4.1	143.0	3.5
Second growth - 60 years old	117.9	4.2	1.2	0.2
All stands	187.3	4.8	87.0	5.2
	Percentage of sound seed (cutting test)			
All stands - percent	85.7	62.5	27.6	4.6

The 1937 Douglas fir seedfall was 6.0 percent of that of the preceding year, but the quality was very poor, the yield of sound seed being only 1.0 percent of that of 1936. It should be noted that the seedfall after November is not included for either year -- for the 1936 crop the additional winter and spring seedfall amounted to about one-fourth of the autumn yield, both for ponderosa pine and Douglas fir.

A similar relationship was indicated by accurate cone counts made on nine pine trees on the experimental forest in an intensive study of cone development. These trees, which had produced a heavy crop of cones in 1934 (not counted), matured no cones in 1935, 5,482 cones in 1936, and only 94 cones in 1937. A large proportion of this year's cones were wormy so that the net seed crop was even less than indicated by cone count. As a check, general observations made on other nearby trees and in other localities showed occasional individuals or groups with cone crops approaching those of 1936, but most trees bore few or no 1937 cones. Seed collecting and extracting were difficult and seed quality relatively low.

The 1938 seed crop will be even poorer than that of the present year if these trees are representative of prevailing conditions. Seven of the trees produced no new cones this year; the other two, a total of 22 cones, some of which will fail to mature. This observation on 1938 prospects has not been checked in other localities. --- E. L. M.